

# Community Newsletter

August 2021 Edition



## Mayor's Note



Lakewood is a community that has risen to meet the ongoing challenge of the COVID-19 crisis. So many continue to go above and beyond in their work, and our community is unified in our determination to help those in need. We can all be proud of how our city continues to work through this crisis.

Our city was one of the first nationally to provide COVID funding through our Small Business Rent Relief Fund, which helped keep the doors open for over 200 businesses that form the core of our economy and do so much to serve our residents. The grants were effective – our staff's interactions with the business community indicate that the pandemic did not affect Lakewood's overall commercial occupancy rate. Our

residential housing relief program was soon launched and helped keep over 1,400 Lakewood residents in their homes.

Even as we gradually emerge from the pandemic, many residents remain vulnerable, especially those with lower incomes and those who lost employment. With the State of Ohio terminating additional unemployment funds and federal protections against evictions ending on July 31<sup>st</sup>, a risk of a housing crisis exists for Lakewood's most vulnerable if we do not act swiftly.

You've probably heard that our city received over \$47 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds are restricted in how they can be spent, but fortunately, they can be used to assist people facing a threat to their housing due to impacts from COVID-19. My administration has determined this to be an immediate need for a portion of these dollars.

It was a great show of unity when Lakewood City Council swiftly and unanimously voted to approve my administration's recommendation to dedicate \$1.68 million in ARPA funds to provide rental assistance and keep people in their homes. The funds will be dedicated exclusively to low-income recipients who are at risk of losing their housing due to the pandemic.

The timing is right for this new round of rental assistance, with previous CARES Act resources used for rent relief now exhausted. We are excited to partner with the Lakewood Community Service Center to administer these grants, which we expect to help many Lakewood families stay in their homes. Once again, the Lakewood community is rising to the occasion by providing our most vulnerable residents with the emergency assistance they need.

Mayor Meghan F. George

## City News & Updates

### Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: August 6 - Cleveland

### Shakespeare Festival

The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival will perform *Romeo & Juliet* at Lakewood Park. This free performance begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Bandstand. For more information, click [here](#).

### August 8, 15 - Summer Concert in the Park

Join us for a free concert in the park. In the event of rain, this concert will be held in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue. For details on the bands and full listing, click [here](#).

### August 13, 20 - Friday Night Flick

Join us for a free movie in the park. Bring your blanket and your lawn chair. Visit [here](#) for the full schedule.



**Save the Date: Lakewood  
Community Festival  
Saturday, September 11  
11:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Madison Park**

[Calendar of Events](#)

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## New & Improved Bill Pay Service for Water/Sewer Customers

City of Lakewood water and sewer customers will soon have access to a new and improved online bill pay service. Customers will be able to conveniently view and pay their water/sewer bills online, set up automatic payments, go paperless, and more.

Beginning September 1st, you can enroll, set up autopay, or make one-time payments. Customers who wish to pay in person, over the phone, or by mail still may do so. For details on how to enroll in the new system, please click [here](#). In addition, instructions on how to enroll and FAQ's are included in your August water bill.

The goal of this new payment system is to offer an improved, secure, and simple way to pay your bills online. If you have any questions or issues as you set up your new account, please contact the Water Department at 216-529-6820.

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## H2O's HOME ALONE is a Hit!

There was a great turnout at the H<sub>2</sub>O HOME ALONE sessions that took place in July. Youth ages 9-12 learned safety and independence skills from emergency first responders and safety experts.

For more information on other programs offered by H<sub>2</sub>O, please visit [here](#).



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## Cove Church Redevelopment Update



The Human Services team did a site visit to view construction progress at the future [Lakewood Community Center](#).

Currently, the Department of Human Services is in three different locations around the city, and the Cove Church location will provide a multi-generational community center that will house the department, including the Senior Center, H2O, and the Family Room.

Be sure to check out the ongoing construction progress on the City's [Facebook](#) page, where periodic updates and photos will be shared.

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## Lakewood Police Officers Recognized

Two Lakewood Police Officers were recently recognized for their courageous services. In July, Chief Kevin Kauchek presented Officer Ron Bunner with a letter of commendation for his sound judgment and initiative in the recent arrest of individuals involved with an armed robbery, as well as the recovery of the weapon, and escorting the victim to identify the six suspects.



Sergeant Anthony Ciresi received the Life Saving Award for his quick thinking while on foot patrol. After hearing a faint voice, Sgt. Ciresi followed the sound and found a woman who had fallen and suffered head trauma. Acting quickly, Sgt. Ciresi summoned Lakewood Fire and EMS and was able to get her to the hospital for life-saving medical treatment.

Thank you to both of these officers for your dedication to your profession and the Lakewood community.

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## Volunteers Wanted!



The Lakewood Division of Aging is looking for volunteers to help us in all aspects of our service programming: artists, yoga, activity group leaders, home-delivered meals, kitchen aides, and more. If you could offer an hour or two a week, you will

have fun and meet wonderful people. Your gift of time will brighten the lives of Lakewood's seniors.

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Services Office at 216-529-5005 or [barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:barry.wemyss@lakewoodoh.net).

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## News from the Finance Department

The City of Lakewood will receive the *Auditor of State Award with Distinction* from Auditor of State Keith Faber. This recognition is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit, meeting specific criteria of a “clean” audit report.

The award will be presented at a City Council meeting in September.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Promotion in the Finance Department


The Finance Department announces the promotion of Jessica Eddy to Chief Income Tax Administrator for the City of Lakewood.

Jessica originally joined the City of Lakewood as a Tax Auditor before moving on to be the Tax Manager in the City of Brunswick. She returned to Lakewood as Budget Manager, where she was instrumental in developing the City's budget document for the 2019, 2020, and 2021 budget years. Congratulations, Jessica!



## Construction Update

There is a lot of road construction happening around Lakewood this summer. Here is an update on the ongoing projects:

- Elbur Ave Lakewood Heights to Athens. – One-way traffic maintained (From Athens to Lkwd Hts)
  - Lauderdale Ave Madison to Detroit Ave. – One-way traffic maintained (From Madison to Detroit)
  - Leedale Lake Ave to Edgewater all water main streets. - One-way traffic maintained (From Edgewater to Lake)
  - Resurfacing Dowd and Magee to start mid-August. – Project also includes restriping of parking stalls/no parking zones/other misc. areas in the East and Westbound curb lanes (only) along Detroit from W. 117 to Riverside (this will mainly be night work)
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- Detroit Sloane construction project ongoing
  - Please note: Dominion Gas is performing mainline replacement on Edgewater from Webb to Kenneth
  - Dominion Gas is performing mainline replacement on Clifton Rd, Forest Rd, Arlington, and Overlook

## The City of Lakewood is Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Administrative Assistant 1
- Full-time lateral police officer
- Full-time fleet mechanic
- Full-time plant attendant
- Full-time building inspector
- Seasonal Laborers in the Refuse Department
- School Crossing Guards



For further details regarding all our job opportunities and to apply, please visit [here](#).

## Mayor George Seeking Applicants for Board & Commissions

The City of Lakewood is seeking volunteers ready to engage with the community and advise their local government. Opportunities on the following Boards and Commissions are available:

- [Audit Committee](#)
- [Citizens Advisory Committee](#)
- [Community Relations Advisory Commission](#)
- [City Records Commission](#)

Applicants are asked to email and submit an application and a résumé for consideration to [mayorsoffice@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:mayorsoffice@lakewoodoh.net) by August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Any questions regarding the positions, deadlines, requirements, etc., can also be directed to the email listed above. Click [here](#) for an application to apply.



## More



### Third Thursdays in Madison Park

Friends of Madison Park launched [Third Thursdays in Madison Park](#) a quartet of free community events featuring refreshments from local eateries, family-friendly activities, and neighborly conversation. The next one is on August 19th at 6 pm.



### Lakewood Arts Festival

Don't forget that the 44th Annual [Lakewood Arts Festival](#) returns TOMORROW, on Saturday, August 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Detroit Avenue between Arthur and Belle. The Festival will also include community booths offering food, sweets, beverages, activities for children, and more.



### Coffee with a Cop

Join members of the Lakewood Police Department for coffee and conversation on Wednesday, August 18 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Goodkind Coffee, 15526 Madison Avenue.

## Summer Fire Safety Reminders

**Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike.**

### Outdoor Lightning Safety:

- If you can hear thunder you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home large building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- Do not go under trees for shelter.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- There is no safe place outside.

**Indoor Lightning Safety:**

- Turn off computers, and stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Use a cell phone.
- Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.

**Electrical Safety Around Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas:**

It is important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water.

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub, or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations
- Avoid handling electrical devices when you are wet.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- Electrical appliances, equipment, and cords should be kept at least six feet away from the water.
- Learn more [here](#).

**Marina & Boating Safety:**

- Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents. Carbon Monoxide accumulates there.
- Be sure your boat is well maintained and is inspected each year
- Only use cords intended for marine use
- Install CO alarms inside your boat and test them before every trip.
- For more information, click [here](#).